

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~TECHNICAL FIELD -- BACKGROUND --~~

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 12.

~~BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION AND PRIOR ART~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS